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Farm Broadcasters Letter



COMMUNICATIONS RECORDS

Letter No. 2318

June 25, 1987

MORE DAIRY CATTLE FOR EXPORT

U.S. exporters have an additional opportunity to sell 8,000 head of dairy cattle to Indonesia and 5,000 head to Turkey under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's export enhancement program. The sales will be made to buyers in the two countries at competitive world prices. The sales will be subsidized with commodities from the inventory of the Commodity Credit Corporation. (For more information, call William Hawkins at 202-382-9240, or Larry McElvain at 202-447-6225.)

WHEAT/SORGHUM RATES RELEASED

The new U.S. Department of Agriculture county loan and purchase rates for 1987 crop wheat and sorghum are out. Copies of the rates are available from: Cotton, Grain and Rice Price Support Division, USDA-ASCS, P.O. Box 2415, Washington, D.C. 20013. For the first time, the 1987 county rates reflect relative county market prices arrived at by the same method for determining country posted prices used for the exchange of commodity certificates.

OPTIONS GIVEN FOR SOME FARMERS

A farmer who has a 1983-crop wheat Farmer-Owned Reserve loan that is maturing now has the option of extending that loan for an additional three years. In making the announcement, U.S. Department of Agriculture's CCC executive vice president Milton Hertz also reported that producers with maturing Special Producer Storage Loan Program wheat loans will have the option of pledging the wheat that was the collateral for these loans as the collateral for a 3-year reserve loan. However, there are restrictions on how some of these options will be allowed. Farmers should check with their local ASCS office.

AG ISSUES CONTINUE STRONG INFLUENCE

The way world governments address agricultural issues will continue to affect economic growth, inflation, trade, and domestic policies. The latest U.S. Department of Agriculture report on world agriculture points out that foreign economic growth in 1987 is forecast at 2.4 percent, down from last year's 2.8 percent. The growth in industrial countries, excluding the U.S. and centrally planned countries, is projected at 2.2 percent, which is down 2/10ths of a percent. However, the economic growth in developing growth is down nearly a whole percent, and is estimated at 1.9 percent.

FARMERS CUT EXPENDITURES

U.S. Department of Agriculture statisticians have confirmed that U.S. farmers tightened their belts in 1986 and spent considerably less for their farm production needs than in 1985. The 1986 farm production expenditures total \$106 billion, and that's 16 percent less than the amount spent in 1985. Farmers spent less in all major categories except building and fencing. The largest drop in expenditures was in farm services, including rent, down 17 percent in 1986 compared to a year earlier. (For more statistical information, call 202-447-3570.)

CATFISH STILL GROWING

The U.S. catfish industry continues to show giant strides in production. The latest U.S. Department of Agriculture production report says nearly 22 million pounds of farm-raised catfish were processed in May, and that's up 35 percent over May last year. The May average price paid to farmers was 69 cents per pound, 3 cents below May, 1986. (For more statistical info, call 202-447-2123.)

SCREWWORM ALERT PROGRAM CANCELED

The screwworm scare in the Albuquerque, New Mexico, area is over. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service had set up a screwworm outbreak alert control program in Albuquerque after a case of screwworms was conformed in a hunting dog being returned from Venezuela. Now, six weeks later, now additional cases of screwworm have been found in New Mexico, and the alert control program has been canceled.

TOBACCO CARRYOVER EXPECTED DOWN

Tobacco exports are expected to decline this year, but domestic use may rise slightly. Still, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's latest report, tobacco use will exceed 1986/87 marketings and stocks carried over to the new marketing year will likely decline 11 percent from last year. (For more information, call Verner Grise at 202-786-1768.)

TURKEY PRODUCTION EXPECTED UP

Potential turkey production figures are up, according to the latest U.S. Department of Agriculture report. Turkey eggs in incubators on June 1st totaled nearly 35 million, 14 percent above last year. And just over 26-1/2 million poults were placed during May, and this was 9 percent above the placements during May last year. (For more statistical information, call 202-447-2123.)

HORTICULTURAL PRODUCTS BRIGHT EXPORT ITEMS

Export earnings from horticultural products have increased every month between last October and April this year, according to a U.S. Department of Agriculture. The increased sales are attributed to the weakening dollar and from export promotion programs funded by the USDA. In April this year, export earnings were up 9 percent over April last year, and most of the increase came from more shipments of fresh grapefruit, prunes, citrus juice, asparagus, canned corn, and beer and wine. (For more information, call 202-447-2974.)

USDA NEEDS SCIENTISTS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is searching for 100 new scientists who are just starting their careers to work for up to two years on significant research problems. Persons interested should contact Nancy Bakes, Personnel Division, USDA Agricultural Research Service, Beltsville, MD 20705. Telephone 301-344-2796.

FROM OUR
TELEVISION
SERVICE

CURRENT AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK...The volume of U.S. exports is rising in fiscal year 1987--expected to climb more than 15 percent from last year. USDA economist Herb Moses focuses on these and other factors contributing to the current agricultural outlook. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (221)

SUGARS AND SWEETENERS OUTLOOK...World sugar consumption during the last year is estimated to be 100 million metric tons, up slightly from the previous year. USDA economist David Harvey talks about the current outlook for sugar consumption and production. Vic Powell interviews. (222)

TOBACCO OUTLOOK...For the year ending June 30, Americans will likely consume two percent fewer cigarettes than a year earlier, with both production and sales continuing to fall throughout 1987. USDA economist Verner Grise examines factors contributing to this situation. Vic Powell interviews. (223)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES...Diane Gelbard, a USDA archaeologist with the Soil Conservation Service, describes research work being conducted to study various artifacts and remains of a civilization site in Delaware dated as far back as 9,000 years. Vic Powell interviews. (224)

EARTH-TUBE HEAT EXCHANGERS...Warren Goetsch with the University of Illinois describes how pork producers can benefit from earth-tube heat exchangers, tubes placed under the ground, to reduce energy costs. Gary Beaumont interviews. (225)



FROM OUR RADIO
SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1569...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) What do you do when you realize that some leftover chicken, tuna salad, cottage cheese or whatever has been sitting in the refrigerator for a couple days...or has it been longer? Throw it out? Probably, if you're like most homemakers. On this edition of AGRICULTURE USA, Jim Johnson talks about the wasteful food habits of American homemakers...and what Oregon State University food scientist Margy Woodburn found out about why we throw away so much good food.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1558...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; Wheat reserve loans extended; the Korean market; The farmer as pharmacist; Upcoming trade talks.

CONSUMER TIME #1050...(Weekly reel of 2½-3 min features) Goodbye to leaded gas; Carpet selection tips; Don't throw out good food; The many uses of baking soda; Canning foods.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Tues, June 30, Weekly crop and weather, Grain stocks, Hogs and pigs, Cattle; Tues, July 7, Weekly crop and weather; Wed, July 8, Western Hemisphere outlook. Dial the USDA National News Line 202-488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. ET each working day.

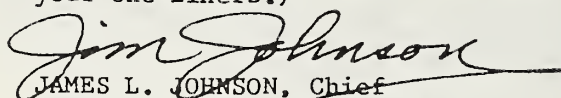
OFF MIKE

Jerry Reed is leaving WIBX and the NE Ag Net in Utica, NY, and will begin a new job with the New York Beef Council, July 13. In the meantime, he's looking for a farm broadcaster to fill his position at the station and network. If you're interested, call him at 315-736-9313. Incidentally, Jerry says he plans to become an associate NAFB member and hopes to make it to the NAFB annual meeting in Kansas City this fall ... A voice you hear on the USDA Radio News Service and his own News Feature Five radio service belongs to Jim Henry. He's with USDA's Agricultural Research Service, and he's a new father. In fact his son Gage Mathews jumped the gun and arrived the day before Father's Day ... The University of Maryland Cooperative Extension Service is looking for an associate producer for its educational video and teleconferencing activities. Closing date for applications is July 15. More information is available from Eugene Britt, director of personnel, phone 301-454-5488 ... Photo and cryptic note arrived from Jack McConnell (KMMJ, Grand Island, NE). The

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photo shows Jack perched astride a camel, looking somewhat apprehensive (Jack, not the camel). The accompanying note said, "Yes, they are nasty. They spit and smell like the inside of an outfielder's glove. I still gave it a try. We also did a play-by-play while on the ride." That's all. Like you, we're wondering about the where, what, when, why...especially the "why." ... Johnny Martin, who is retiring July 1 from the Ohio Farm Bureau, also dropped us a note. He said he was cleaning up some loose ends and came to an interesting conclusion: "Somebody else must have been using this studio on the midnight shift, and I didn't know it. One person couldn't have accumulated this much junk in 12 years. A shovel won't help. Send a bulldozer." One's on the way, Johnny, and best of luck. (We're hanging on to your one-liners.)


JAMES L. JOHNSON, Chief
Radio and Television Division